

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 03612 050928Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 /139 W
-----024721 050932Z /21

R 050852Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3480
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EINT, PINS, PGOV, GH
SUBJ: DAMAGE TO VALCO OPERATION NOT SABOTAGE

REF: ACCRA 3458

1. DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP VOLTA RIVER AUTHORITY (VRA) AND OTHER GHANAIAN OFFICIALS HAVE LED VALCO RESIDENT DIRECTOR ARMANTROUT TO CONCLUDE THAT THE POWER SHUTDOWN DAMAGING VALCO ON APRIL 30 WAS CAUSED NOT REPEAT NOT BY SABOTAGE AT DAM BUT BY A BONA FIDE MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT FAULT COULD HAVE BEEN CORRECTED IN TIME TO AVOID SERIOUS DAMAGE HAD THE ENGINEERS NOT BEEN IN A WORK-TO-RULE, SLOWDOWN POSTURE IN WHICH THEY REFUSE TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY REQUESTS OR WORK OVERTIME. ENGINEERS HAVE LONG BEEN PRESSING GOG FOR IMPROVEMENTS

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IN THEIR CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, AND THEY ARE FRUSTRATED AND BITTER AT GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF RESPONSE. IN THIS CASE, VALCO APPEARS TO BE INNOCENT VICTIM OF THAT DISPUTE.

2. ARMANTROUT ALSO REPORTS THAT DAMAGE IS SLIGHTLY LESS SEVERE THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. VALCO MANAGED

TO SALVAGE 84 OF THE 50 POTS RATHER THAN 70 REPORTED
REFTEL, THUS PERMITTING THEM TO OPERATE AT SOME 17
PERCENT CAPACITY. TWO SENIOR KAISER OFFICIALS HAVE ARRIVED
TO EXPLORE SITUATION AND REACH DECISION ON
PACE AT WHICH COMPANY SHOULD MOVE TOWARD RESUMPTION
OF FULL PRODUCTION.

3. COMMENT: REPAIR OF DAMAGE TO POT LINES AND
REMOVAL OF SOLIDIFIED METAL IS A LENGTHY, LABORIOUS
AND COSTLY PROCESS. AT LEAST SOME IN COMPANY MAY OPT
FOR A SLOW APPROACH BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ANY
ASSURANCE THAT THE POWER MIGHT NOT FAIL AGAIN. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENGINEERING, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780591/aaaacziq.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2786726
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAMAGE TO VALCO OPERATION NOT SABOTAGE
TAGS: ENRG, EIND, PINS, PGOV, GH, VALCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/97e4cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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